(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/000422 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7: C12N 1/16, 1/20, 1/22

A62D 1/00,

(74) Agent: LE ROUX, Marius; D M Kisch Inc, P O Box

AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,

LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD,

SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/ZA2003/000085

- 25 June 2003 (25.06.2003) (22) International Filing Date:
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 2002/5092

25 June 2002 (25.06.2002)

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BLENHEIM INVESTMENTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Suite1, Phoenix House, Davis Place, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 4TE (GB).
- (71) Applicant and
- (72) Inventor (for US only): BEUKES, Vivian, Godfrey [ZA/ZA]; 20 Poplier Street, Heatherpark, 6530 George (ZA).

- 781218, Sandton 2146 (ZA). (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

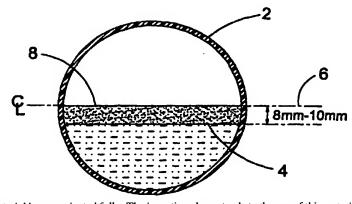
Published:

with international search report

UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING ORGANIC MATERIAL AND USE OF THE SAME



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of producing an organic material, which multiplies through a process of germination, wherein the method is aimed at increasing growth of the material and reducing the period necessary for harvesting the same. In particular, the method, which includes a two-stage fermentation process, comprises the steps of preparing a starter nutrient medium; adding a starter culture of an organic bacterial fungus to the nutrient medium; permitting the mixture of nutrient medium and fungus culture to undergo a first stage fermentation process; transferring the mixture to a fermentation container; and allowing the mixture to undergo a second stage fermentation process until the organic

material has germinated fully. The invention also extends to the use of this material in a number of applications, and in particular in fire extinguishing, fire prevention applications and as a general thermal barrier.